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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,506	06/28/2001	Jin Murayama	107317-00032	4994

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EXAMINER	
VIEAUX, GARY	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2612	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/892,506	MURAYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gary C. Vieaux	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 June 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *28 June 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy of Japanese patent application number 2000-194500, filed on June 28, 2001, has been received and made of record.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 1, line 21 of page 28, and claim 8, line 1 of page 31, each state the limitation "said photodiode", there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in each of the claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 1 12, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The language "as viewed in plan" does not clearly delineate the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This claim will be directly addressed on its merits as best interpreted/understood by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hatta (US 5,087,964), in view of Masuda et al. (US 5,249,055), in view of Examiner's Official Notice.

Regarding claim 1, Applicant, in the Background of the Invention, discloses a linear image sensor chip comprising a semiconductor substrate having an elongated shape (p. 1 line 20), an image pickup section formed on said semiconductor substrate (p. 1 lines 20-21), said image pickup section including (i) at least one photodiode group composed of a plurality of photodiodes formed in one surface of said semiconductor substrate along a longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate (p. 2 lines 7-9) and (ii) a charge transfer element provided for each said photodiode group (p. 1 lines 23-24), a peripheral circuit section (p. 3 lines 3-5), a plurality of bonding pads formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction, each of said bonding pads having an exposed surface (p. 3 lines 6-11), a light-suppressing layer formed above said semiconductor substrate and covering a peripheral area (p.3 lines 16-17), and bonding wires connecting the bonding pads with lead electrodes (p.3 lines 18-21.)

The AAPA is not found to explicitly disclose the light-suppressing layer covering a peripheral area of each said photodiode, the peripheral circuit section being formed on said semiconductor substrate and disposed outer than said image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction, or a plurality of metal lines formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate, each of said metal lines having an end connected to one of said bonding pad and another end connected to said peripheral circuit or said charge transfer element.

Nevertheless, Hatta teaches a light-suppressing layer which only allows light to pass through to an image area (fig. 1 and 2 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-33.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the light-suppressing layer to cover everywhere but where the light strikes the image area as taught by Hatta, with photodiodes of the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, in order to ensure the only light intended to strike the photodiode reaches the photodiode, as well as to prevent light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.

Further, it is well know in the art to provide a peripheral circuit section formed on a semiconductor substrate and disposed outer than an image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction as demonstrated by Masuda (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 7.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include circuitry peripheral to the photodiodes (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 4) and the charge transfer elements (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 5) as taught by Masuda, with the image sensor as taught by Hatta and the AAPA in order to minimize the width

of the image sensor chip, resulting in a more compact image sensor, which is particularly important in full-page-width imaging.

Official Notice is taken regarding the etching of metal lines on a semiconductor substrate for the purposes of forming bonding pads, interconnects and trace runs; a practice that is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the image sensor as taught by Hatta, Masuda and the AAPA to include a plurality of metal lines formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate, each of said metal lines having an end connected to one of said bonding pad and another end connected to the circuitry peripheral to the photodiodes in order to be able to pass signal from the photodiodes to the bonding pads and eventually to circuitry external to the semiconductor substrate for additional processing, such as to a printing apparatus, an image memory or an image display device.

Regarding claim 4, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 4 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 1 supra) including teaching an image sensor chip wherein said light-suppressing layer covers also said peripheral circuit section (figs. 1-3 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-26; in which Hatta teaches the light shielding plate prevents light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.)

Regarding claim 5, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 5 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 1 supra) including teaching an image sensor chip wherein said light-suppressing layer covers said metal

lines at least in a region sideward along said at least one photodiode group (figs. 1-3 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-26; in which Hatta teaches the light shielding plate prevents light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.)

Regarding claim 8, Applicant, in the Background of the Invention, discloses a linear image sensor comprising a package including a bottom portion, sidewall portions and a lid portion (p. 3 lines 13-17), and a plurality of lead electrodes, passing through said sidewall portions, and reaching an external space (p. 3 lines 18-19), said bottom portion and said sidewall portions being made of light shielding material (p.3 lines 14-15) and said lid portion having a window made of transparent material (p. 3 line 15), a linear image sensor chip fixed in the inner space of said package (p. 3 line 13), said linear image sensor chip including (1) a semiconductor substrate (p. 1 line 20) having an elongated shape along a direction generally coincident with the longitudinal direction (p.2 lines 7-9), (2) an image pickup section formed on said semiconductor substrate, said image pickup section including (i) at least one photodiode group composed of a plurality of photodiodes formed in one surface of said semiconductor substrate along a longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate (p. 2 lines 7-9) and (ii) a charge transfer element provided for each said photodiode group (p. 1 line 23-24), (3) a peripheral circuit section (p. 3 line 3-5), (4) a plurality of bonding pads formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate, each of said bonding pads having an exposed surface (p. 3 lines 6-11), a light-suppressing layer formed above said semiconductor substrate and covering a peripheral area (p.3 lines

16-17), and a plurality of bonding wires each electrically connecting one of said lead electrodes to a predetermined one of said bonding pads (p. 3 lines 18-21.)

The AAPA is not found to explicitly disclose a package defining an elongated inner space, the lead electrodes extending from an end region of the elongated inner space, the lid portion having an elongated window, the semiconductor substrate being generally coincident with the longitudinal direction of said bottom portion, the peripheral circuit section formed on the semiconductor substrate and disposed outer than said image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate, a plurality of metal lines formed on the surface of the semiconductor substrate, each of the metal lines having an end connected to one of the bonding pads and another end connected to the peripheral circuit or the charge transfer element, and a light-suppressing layer formed above the semiconductor substrate and covering a peripheral area of each said photodiode.

Nevertheless, Hatta is found to teach a package defining an elongated inner space (fig. 3), the lid portion having an elongated window (fig. 3 indicator 22), and a semiconductor substrate (fig. 3 indicator 14) being generally coincident with the longitudinal direction of the package (fig. 3.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct a package as taught by Hatta, with the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, so that the elongated semiconductor substrate of the line image sensor taught by the AAPA would be accommodated within the package.

Hatta further teaches the lead electrodes extending from an end region of the elongated inner space (fig. 16 indicators 5 and 6.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to located the lead electrodes at the end regions as taught by Hatta, in order to coincide with the bonding pads, which are located outer than the photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction of the semiconductor substrate of the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, and therefore requiring the less wiring due to a shorter distance, as well as potentially less chance of requiring wires to cross.

Hatta also teaches a light-suppressing layer which only allows light to pass through to an image area (fig. 1 and 2 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-33.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the light-suppressing layer to cover everywhere but where the light strikes the image area as taught by Hatta, with photodiodes of the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, in order to ensure the only light intended to strike the photodiode reaches the photodiode, as well as to prevent light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.

Further, it is well know in the art to provide a peripheral circuit section formed on a semiconductor substrate and disposed outer than an image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction as demonstrated by Masuda (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 7.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include circuitry peripheral to the photodiodes (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 4) and the charge transfer elements (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 5) as taught by Masuda, with the image sensor as taught by Hatta and the AAPA in order to minimize the width

of the image sensor chip, resulting in a more compact image sensor, which is particularly important in full-page-width imaging.

Official Notice is taken regarding the etching of metal lines on a semiconductor substrate for the purposes of forming bonding pads, interconnects and trace runs; a practice that is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the image sensor as taught by Hatta, Masuda and the AAPA to include a plurality of metal lines formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate, each of said metal lines having an end connected to one of said bonding pad and another end connected to the circuitry peripheral to the photodiodes in order to be able to pass signal from the photodiodes to the bonding pads and eventually to circuitry external to the semiconductor substrate for additional processing, such as to a printing apparatus, an image memory or an image display device.

Regarding claim 11, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 11 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) including teaching an image sensor wherein said light-suppressing layer covers also said peripheral circuit section (figs. 1-3 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-26; in which Hatta teaches the light shielding plate prevents light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.)

Regarding claim 12, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 12 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) including teaching an image sensor wherein said light-suppressing layer covers said metal lines

at least in a region sideward along said at least one photodiode group (figs. 1-3 indicator 7; col. 1 lines 24-26; in which Hatta teaches the light shielding plate prevents light from radiating to a part other than the imaging area.)

Claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hatta (US 5,087,964), in view of Masuda et al. (US 5,249,055), in view of Examiner's Official Notice, in further view of Miwada (US 5,220,210.)

Regarding claim 2, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 2 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 1 supra) except for teaching an image sensor chip wherein all the bonding pads having an exposed surface are formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction.

Nevertheless, Miwada is found to teach a similar linear image sensor in which the bonding pads are formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction (figs. 1 and 2 indicators a_n; col. 2 line 65 – col. 3 line 2.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Miwada with the image sensor chip as taught in claim 1, in order to allow for further reduction in the width of the elongated substrate.

Regarding claim 3, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 3 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 1 supra) except for teaching an image sensor chip wherein each of said bonding pads is disposed outer than said peripheral circuit section with respect to the longitudinal direction.

Nevertheless, Miwada is found to teach a similar linear image sensor in which the bonding pads are disposed outer than a circuit region with respect to the longitudinal direction (figs. 1 and 2 indicators a_n; col. 2 line 65 – col. 3 line 2.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the bonding pads outer a peripheral circuit section as taught by Miwada, with the configuration as taught in claim 1 in which the peripheral circuit section is disposed outer an image pickup section, with respect to the longitudinal direction, in order to allow for further reduction in the width of the elongated substrate.

Regarding claim 9, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 9 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) except for teaching an image sensor wherein all the bonding pads having exposed surfaces are formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate.

Nevertheless, Miwada is found to teach a similar linear image sensor in which the bonding pads are formed on the surface of said semiconductor substrate outer than said at least one photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction of a semiconductor substrate (figs. 1 and 2 indicators a_n; col. 2 line 65 – col. 3 line 2.) It

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Miwada with the image sensor as taught in claim 1, in order to allow for further reduction in the width of the elongated substrate.

Regarding claim 10, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 10 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) except for teaching an image sensor wherein each of said bonding pads is disposed outer than said peripheral circuit section with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate.

Nevertheless, Miwada is found to teach a similar linear image sensor in which the bonding pads are disposed outer than a circuit region with respect to the longitudinal direction of a semiconductor substrate (figs. 1 and 2 indicators a_n; col. 2 line 65 – col. 3 line 2.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the bonding pads outer a peripheral circuit section as taught by Miwada, with the configuration as taught in claim 1 in which the peripheral circuit section is disposed outer an image pickup section, with respect to the longitudinal direction, in order to allow for further reduction in the width of the elongated substrate.

Regarding claim 15, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 15 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) except for teaching an image sensor wherein each said lead electrode is disposed outer than said image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate.

Nevertheless, Miwada is found to teach lead electrodes being disposed outer than an image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction of the semiconductor substrate (fig. 1 indicators 3-n.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the lead electrodes outer than an image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction of the semiconductor substrate as taught by Miwada, with the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice, in order to further coincide with the bonding pads, which are located outer than the photodiode group with respect to the longitudinal direction of the semiconductor substrate of the image sensor as taught in claim 8, and therefore requiring even less wiring due to a shorter distance, as well as potentially less chance of requiring wires to cross.

Regarding claim 16, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 16 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) except for teaching an image sensor wherein each said lead electrode is disposed outer than said peripheral circuit section with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate. However, it is further noted that Masuda is found to disclose the peripheral circuit section outer than the image pickup section with respect to the longitudinal direction (figs. 10 and 4a indicator 7), includes both the image pickup section and the peripheral circuit section on the same semiconductor substrate (fig. 10 indicator 3; col. 1 lines 27-39.)

Miwada teaches the lead electrodes being disposed outer to the circuit region of the sensor chip with respect to the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate

(fig. 1, indicators 3, 2 and 10, respectively.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to locate the lead electrodes outer than the semiconductor substrate, with respect to the longitudinal direction as taught by Miwada, with the image sensor, which includes the peripheral circuit section as part of the semiconductor substrate, as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice, in order to further coincide with the bonding pads, which are located outer than the photodiode group and the peripheral circuit section with respect to the longitudinal direction of the semiconductor substrate of the image sensor as taught above, and therefore requiring even less wiring due to a shorter distance, as well as potentially less chance of requiring wires to cross.

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hatta (US 5,087,964), in view of Masuda et al. (US 5,249,055), in view of Examiner's Official Notice, in further view of Kawai et al. (US 6,078,685), in further view of Phillips et al. (5,773,814.)

Regarding claim 6, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 6 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 1 supra) except for teaching an image sensor chip wherein said image pickup section includes four photodiode groups juxtaposed along a direction crossing the longitudinal direction, said peripheral circuit section includes an output amplifier provided for each said charge transfer element and electrically connected to an output terminal of a corresponding

charge transfer element, and the linear image sensor chip further comprises a color filter array disposed for each of three photodiode groups of said four photodiode groups, said color filter arrays generally constituting a multicolor color filter array necessary for taking a color image.

Nevertheless, Kawai is found to teach a plurality of light receiving units having a plurality of color filters, which include peripheral circuit sections that include output amplifiers for each charge transfer element and are electrically connected to an output terminal of the corresponding charge transfer element (figs. 2 and 3; col. 1 line 33 – col. 2 line16.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kawai, with the linear image sensor chip as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice, in order to capture color images, while still attempting to minimize the width of the image sensor chip through placement of the peripheral circuit components.

Further, Phillips teaches an image sensor in which the image pickup section includes four sensor array groups juxtaposed along a direction crossing the longitudinal direction (fig. 6A and fig. 1 indicator 118), which also includes color filters disposed for three of the four sensor array groups, with the color filters generally constituting the multicolor color filter configuration necessary for taking a color image, and the fourth sensor array group not having a filter so that black and white or grayscale image capture can be performed (fig. 6A; col. 7 lines 7-38.) It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the four sensor array groups, with three of the four groups having color filters combinations

necessary for taking a color image as taught by Phillips, with the linear image sensor chip as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice and Kawai, so that the linear image sensor chip can be employed for black and white or grayscale image capture, in addition to the capture of color images.

Regarding claim 13, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice teach all the limitations of claim 13 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 8 supra) except for teaching an image sensor wherein said image pickup section includes four photodiode groups juxtaposed along a direction crossing the longitudinal direction of said semiconductor substrate, said peripheral circuit section includes an output amplifier provided for each said charge transfer element and electrically connected to an output terminal of a corresponding charge transfer element, and said linear image sensor chip further comprises a color filter array disposed for each of three photodiode groups of said four photodiode groups, said color filter arrays generally constituting a multicolor color filter array necessary for taking a color image.

Nevertheless, Kawai is found to teach a plurality of light receiving units having a plurality of color filters, which include peripheral circuit sections that include output amplifiers for each charge transfer element and are electrically connected to an output terminal of the corresponding charge transfer element (figs. 2 and 3; col. 1 line 33 – col. 2 line16.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kawai, with the linear image sensor as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, and Examiner' Official Notice, in order to capture color

images, while still attempting to minimize the width of the image sensor through placement of the peripheral circuit components.

Further, Phillips teaches an image sensor in which the image pickup section includes four sensor array groups juxtaposed along a direction crossing the longitudinal direction (fig. 6A and fig. 1 indicator 118), which also includes color filters disposed for three of the four sensor array groups, with the color filters generally constituting the multicolor color filter configuration necessary for taking a color image, and the fourth sensor array group not having a filter so that black and white or grayscale image capture can be performed (fig. 6A; col. 7 lines 7-38.) It would have been further obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the four sensor array groups, with three of the four groups having color filters combinations necessary for taking a color image as taught by Phillips, with the linear image sensor as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice and Kawai, so that the linear image sensor chip can be employed for black and white or grayscale image capture, in addition to the capture of color images.

Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Hatta (US 5,087,964), in view of Masuda et al. (US 5,249,055), in view of Examiner's Official Notice, in view of Kawai et al. (US 6,078,685), in view of Phillips et al. (5,773,814), in further view of Sakamoto et al. (US 5,648,653.)

Regarding claim 7, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice, Kawai and Phillips teach all the limitations of claim 7 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 6 supra) except for teaching an image sensor chip further comprising a color filter array disposed above remaining one of said four photodiode groups.

Nevertheless, Sakamoto teaches employing four color filters disposed above four image sensors groups, with the fourth filter converting infrared (figs. 1 and 2; col. 3 line 46 – col. 4 line 39.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to arrange four color filters above four image sensors groups as taught by Sakamoto, with the image sensor chip as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice, Kawai and Phillips, so that the linear image sensor chip can be employed for color or black and white or grayscale image capture, in addition to the capture of images in the visible and invisible regions.

Regarding claim 14, the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice, Kawai and Phillips teach all the limitations of claim 14 (see the 103(a) rejection to claim 13 supra) except for teaching an image sensor further comprising a color filter array disposed above remaining one of said four photodiode groups.

Nevertheless, Sakamoto teaches employing four color filters disposed above four image sensors groups, with the fourth filter converting infrared (figs. 1 and 2; col. 3 line 46 – col. 4 line 39.) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to arrange four color filters above four image sensors groups as taught by Sakamoto, with the image sensor as taught by the AAPA, Hatta, Masuda, Examiner' Official Notice, Kawai and Phillips, so that the linear image sensor chip can

be employed for color or black and white or grayscale image capture, in addition to the capture of images in the visible and invisible regions.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sasaoka (US 4,736,251) discloses three color filters disposed over a sensor composed of four imaging arrays, with the fourth array employed to derive luminance.

Hasegawa (US 5,841,554) discloses a color linear sensor.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary C. Vieaux whose telephone number is 703-305-9573 until March 21, 2005, and 571-272-7318 afterwards. The examiner can normally be reached during his normal office hours, which are Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm, with alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber (SPE 2612) can be reached at 703-305-4929 until March 21, 2005, and at 571-272-7308 afterwards. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gary C. Vieaux
Examiner
Art Unit 2612

Gcv2

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